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# LOST JUNGLE

TO MOST MEN WHO FOUGHT THERE,  
THE ISLAND OF NEW GUINEA HAD'  
BEEN A JUNGLE HELL. BUT THIS  
IS A STORY OF A FEW MEN WHO  
FOUND A STRANGE HAVEN THERE,  
A PARADISE REMOTE FROM THE  
CARNAGE OF WAR...



Chapter 1. ***Mutiny in Action***

LIKE GHOSTLY WRAITHS, THE  
TOUGH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY MEN  
MOVED QUIETLY THROUGH THE  
NEW GUINEA JUNGLE, EVERY  
SENSE ALERT FOR THE FIRST SIGHT  
OR SOUND OF THE ENEMY...

FIVE PLATOON HAD BEEN  
CHOSEN ONCE MORE TO  
SCOUT AHEAD OF THE  
BATTALION...



PRIVATE LOFTY BURNS, A CYNICAL, HARD-BITTEN  
JUNGLE VETERAN, WHISPERED BRIEFLY TO  
SERGEANT BLUEY WATTS...

THE NIPS ARE  
CLOSE UP AHEAD,  
BLUEY - YOU  
KNOW THAT?

TOO RIGHT I DO -  
AND THIS NEW  
LIEUTENANT OF OURS  
WON'T BE TOLD A  
DARN THING!

YOUNG LIEUTENANT ADAM TRAVERS THOUGHT HIS TRAINING FITTED HIM TO FIGHT JAPS IN THE JUNGLE. ANY OF THE VETERANS COULD HAVE TOLD HIM DIFFERENTLY, BUT HE WOULD NOT LISTEN...

SPREAD OUT  
ACROSS THE CLEARING...  
DON'T BUNCH UP. HURRY  
IT UP THERE, MEN — WE'VE  
A LOT OF GROUND TO  
COVER ON THIS PATROL.

HE MUST THINK  
WE'VE NEVER DONE  
THIS BEFORE!

THE SINGLE RIFLE SHOT ECHOED  
THROUGH THE JUNGLE, AS ADAM  
TRAVERS SLUMPED TO THE  
GROUND. THE CLEARING  
MAGICALLY EMPTIED OF MEN.  
FIVE PLATOON HAD DONE THIS  
BEFORE...

FIERCE EYES GLARED INTO THAT  
INSCRUTABLE SCREEN OF JUNGLE  
GROWTH...

THE LIEUTENANT'S  
BOUGHT IT — A LONE  
SNIPER'S MY GUESS,  
BUT THERE ARE  
PLENTY MORE  
JAPS JUST  
AHEAD...

YEAH... AND  
THAT LEAVES YOU  
IN COMMAND, BLUEY.  
WHAT YOU GONNA  
DO?

PLATOON COMMAND WAS NO NEW EXPERIENCE TO SERGEANT BLUEY WATTS...

THE OLD MAN RECKONED THERE WERE NO JAPS FOR A LONG WAY AHEAD... SEEMS HE WAS WRONG. BUT WE HAVE TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT IS UP THERE...

THE SNIPER... I SEE HIM, BLUEY!

TRAINED REFLEXES WORKING FAST, LOFTY BURNS SNAPPED THE LEE ENFIELD TO HIS SHOULDER, HIS EYES BLEAK AND MERCILESS.

NICE SHOOTING, LOFTY.

# Lost Jungle

THE SNIPER'S LIFELESS BODY CRASHED TO THE JUNGLE FLOOR AND FIVE PLATOON CAT-FOOTED ON THROUGH THE TANGLE OF VINES AND CREEPERS AND FALLEN TREES...

THE LIEUTENANT WAS ASKING TO BE KNOCKED OFF, SAM. HE SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO BLUEY.

TRUE ENOUGH, DARKY. NOW BLUEY'S BACK IN COMMAND, FIVE PLATOON STANDS A CHANCE...

CALLING DEEP ON HIS KNOWLEDGE OF JUNGLE LORE, THE SERGEANT TOOK THE LEAD...

LIFE FOR BLUEY WATTS AND HIS PLATOON COULD DEPEND ON INSTINCT NOW AND QUICK TRIGGER-FINGERS...

THIS TRAIL'S TOO CLEAR... SOMEONE'S BEEN USING IT RECENTLY. COULD MEAN BOOBY TRAPS... BUT WE MUST PUSH ON!

WONDER HOW LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS AND SIX PLATOON ARE GETTING ON? IT MIGHT BE THEM, OR US, THIS PATROL, BUT SOMEONE'S IN FOR THE CHOP... AND IF I CAN HELP IT, IT WON'T BE FIVE PLATOON!

## Lost Jungle

THE JUNGLE THINNED AND FIVE PLATOON  
CREPT OUT ON TO A RIDGE. BLUEY LOOKED  
OVER... AND LOFTY HEARD HIS QUICK INDRAWN  
BREATH...



AS THE MEN OF FIVE PLATOON PEERED  
DOWNWARDS, THEY ALL UNDERSTOOD THE  
SITUATION - AND WHAT THEY MUST DO.

JAPS BY THE HUNDRED!  
SO WE WERE RIGHT,  
AND THE COLONEL  
WAS WRONG!



LUCK AND SKILL HAD BROUGHT FIVE PLATOON THROUGH JAP-INFESTED JUNGLE, WITH ONLY THE LOSS OF THEIR OFFICER. BUT NOW THEIR LUCK RAN OUT...

AUSTRALIANS!  
A PATROL, MOVING AWAY!

THEY MUST DIE —  
EVERY ONE! THEY HAVE  
SEEN OUR CONCENTRATIONS  
AND WILL RUIN OUR  
SURPRISE...

A SECRET BUILD UP OF STRENGTH WAS A WEAPON THAT COULD TURN THE TIDE OF BATTLE. USED PROPERLY...

HURRY! WE MUST  
CATCH THEM BEFORE  
THEY REACH THE  
GORGE!

EYES CONSTANTLY SEARCHING FOR BOOBY TRAPS, FOR SNIPERS OR ENEMY PATROLS. THE TOUGH DIGGERS OF FIVE PLATOON WERE HASTENING BACK WITH THEIR VITAL INFORMATION.

MY BACK'S ITCHING SOMETHING AWFUL, SAM. THE NIPS MUST BE ON OUR TAIL...

CHEER UP, SPORT. BLUEY KNOWS YOU'VE GOT AN ITCHY BACK, TOO!



SERGEANT BLUEY WATTS DID HIS OWN BACK ITCHED, TOO — WITH THAT NAGGING PERSISTENCE THAT WARNS FIGHTING MEN THAT AN ENEMY DOGS THEIR TRAIL...



CORPORAL SPUD DOOLAN LED HALF THE PATROL ACROSS THE BRIDGE, COVERED BY BLUEY AND THE REMAINDER. AS SPUD FORMED A FIRING LINE, BLUEY WAVED HIS MEN BACK.

THEY'RE ALL ACROSS. OKAY, ANDY, BRETT, LOFTY — CROSS THE BRIDGE — AND MAKE IT SNAPPY!



SNAPPY IT IS, BLUEY!

EVEN AS THE OTHERS FOLLOWED YOUNG ANDY, A SUDDEN, VICIOUS FUSILLADE BATTERED THE JUNGLE AIR...

RUN FOR IT!  
GET ACROSS THAT BRIDGE FAST!

THEY MIGHT  
MAKE IT, BUT BLUEY  
NEVER WILL!

BREN GUNNER HAPPY ARMSTRONG KNEW THAT EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON HIM. HE SQUEEZED THE TRIGGER, LACING THAT HOSTILE GREENERY ACROSS THE GORGE WITH BULLETS...

THAT'S ONE OF  
THE BLIGHTERS!  
I CAN ONLY SPRAY  
'EM AND KEEP  
THEIR HEADS DOWN.  
RUN, BLUEY, RUN!

AUSTRALIA

...AND SERGEANT  
BLUEY WATTS  
RAN FOR HIS LIFE!

IF I GET AWAY WITH  
THIS I'LL BE THE LUCKIEST  
DIGGER IN THE ARMY!



HIS LUCK HELD, EVEN THOUGH  
BULLETS CRACKED ALL ABOUT HIM,  
UNTIL HE REACHED THE OTHER  
SIDE, THEN ONE HIT HIM IN THE  
ARM....



FOR THE MOMENT THERE WAS NO  
PAIN. BLUEY KNEW WHAT HE MUST  
DO, EVEN AT THAT INSTANT OF  
DESPERATION...

GOTTA CUT  
THE ROPES!  
GOTTA STOP  
THE JAPS  
GETTING THE  
REST OF THE  
LADS!



FRANTIC WITH ANGER LEST THE AUSTRALIANS ESCAPE, THE JAPANESE LIEUTENANT LED HIS MEN IN A WILD CHARGE ACROSS THE BRIDGE...



AND THEN A FAMILIAR LANKY FORM DROPPED DOWN BESIDE BLUEY AND BEGAN TO HACK AT THE ROPES. ALSO...



THE JAPANESE HAD ALMOST CROSSED THE BRIDGE WHEN THE ROPES PARTED.



ALL EXHAUSTED, SOME WOUNDED, THE SURVIVORS OF FIVE PLATOON SET OFF AGAIN FOR BATTALION HEADQUARTERS.

I RECKON YOU SAVED OUR LIVES BACK THERE, BLUEY.

BUT NOT ANDY'S... THIS HASN'T BEEN A GOOD PATROL, BUT WE MUST TELL THE COLONEL ABOUT THAT JAP BUILD UP. THAT'S WHAT COUNTS NOW!

THE BATTALION HAD HELD A MISERABLE RIDGE FOR TOO LONG AND THEY WERE THANKFUL TO BE ON THE MOVE AGAIN EVEN IF IT MIGHT MEAN MORE FIGHTING.

THAT'S RIGHT, SIR. MISTER TRAVERS DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM, BUT THOSE JAPS WE SAW...

WE'RE MOVING TO AREA ZULU, BLUEY, SO WE'D BETTER SEE OUR NEW C.O. RIGHT AWAY. TRAGIC ABOUT YOUNG TRAVERS...



MANY OTHER MEN OF THE BATTALION WAVED A GREETING TO SERGEANT BLUEY WATTS AS HE LED HIS WEARY PATROL IN TO REPORT. THOSE MEN KNEW HIS WORTH AS A FIGHTING COMRADE — BUT THE COLONEL WAS NEW TO THE BATTALION...

BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!  
THE JAPS JUST CAN'T  
HAVE BUILT UP A  
CONCENTRATION IN  
THE LAGHI VALLEY!  
HOW MANY DID YOU  
SAY, SERGEANT?

BEST PART OF A  
BRIGADE GROUP, SIR.  
IF LIEUTENANT TRAVERS  
HADN'T BEEN KILLED...



AT THAT MOMENT, LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS AND SIX PLATOON'S PATROL  
CAME IN. COLONEL DAVIS TURNED BRUSQUELY TO THE YOUNG OFFICER...

YOU WERE SENT  
PAST THE LAGHI  
VALLEY, WILLIAMS.  
DID YOU SEE ANY  
SIGN OF JAPS?

DIDN'T SEE ONE,  
SIR. THE JUNGLE  
WAS BAD ENOUGH.

BUT IF WE GO TO THE AREA  
ZULLU, SIR, THE JAPS IN THE  
LAGHI VALLEY WILL OUTFLANK  
US — WE'LL WALK INTO A  
TRAP!



UNCERTAINTIES, THE BILIOUS FEARS OF COMMAND, BROUGHT COLONEL DAVIS' TEMPER TO BOILING POINT...

I'M NOT CANCELLING THE ORDER TO AREA ZULU! I DON'T BELIEVE THE SERGEANT SAW ANY JAPS... HIS OFFICER WAS KILLED BY A SNIPER. MAYBE HE RAN INTO A STRAY PATROL - AND THE SERGEANT MADE THIS STORY UP TO COVER HIS COWARDLY WITHDRAWAL!



SERGEANT BLUEY WATTS HAD FOUGHT HIS WAY UP FROM THE SYDNEY SLUMS TO A SERGEANT IN THE ARMY, A MAN WITH RESPECT. BUT HE HAD MANY FRIENDS IN THE BATTALION - AND THIS STUPID COLONEL INTENDED TO KILL THEM ALL.

IF YOU SEND THE BATTALION TO AREA ZULU YOU'LL KILL THEM ALL. SEND THEM TO AREA QUEEN - THAT WAY YOU'LL OUTFLANK THE JAPS...



CAPTAIN CREEERY UNDERSTOOD THE PASSION FLAMING IN BLUEY WATTS...

YOU CAN TRUST SERGEANT WATTS, COLONEL...

ARE YOU PRESUMING TO TEACH ME MY JOB, SERGEANT! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! I'LL THROW THE BOOK AT YOU FOR THIS!



FURIOUSLY, COLONEL DAVIS ISSUED HIS ORDERS, ORDERS THAT HAD TO BE OBeyed...

YOU MEN! TAKE THIS SERGEANT UNDER ARREST! MARCH HIM OFF TO THE PROVOST POST - AT THE DOUBLE!



YOU BLIND FOOL!  
IF YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND  
THE TRUTH WHEN IT'S  
THROWN AT YOU, PERHAPS  
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND  
THIS!



AS COLONEL DAVIS SLUMPED SENSELESS TO THE FLOOR ALL MOTION SEEMED SUSPENDED IN THE NEW GUINEA DUGOUT. THEN... B



LOFTY CALLED IN THE REST OF FIVE PLATOON'S PATROL AND BLUEY TOLD THEM WHAT HAD HAPPENED. THE AIR CRACKLED WITH TENSION.

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, BLUEY! DON'T DO ANYTHING ELSE YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR!

LISTEN, CAPTAIN - WE SAW THOSE JAPS!



BREATHING DEEPLY, BLUEY PICKED UP THE PHONE AND WAS PUT THROUGH TO THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND. HE SPOKE TAUTLY, URGENTLY...

YES! THERE IS A BRIGADE GROUP OF JAPS IN THE LAGHI VALLEY. THE BATTALION'S OBJECTIVE IS NOW AREA QUEEN. WE CAN OUTFLANK THE JAPS THERE. YES - THE COLONEL'S ORDERS!



## Chapter 2. Crash Landing

ON A FLAT SCRAP OF AIRFIELD BEHIND THE FRONT, A DAKOTA WAITED FOR ITS PASSENGERS. THE PILOT AND NAVIGATOR WERE NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING FLIGHT TO THE COAST.

SOON BE DAWN, CHUCK. THIS IS ONE TRIP I'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE FINISHED.



AS THE DAWN THRUST FIERY FINGERS ABOVE THE DISTANT JUNGLE, A GRIM PROCESSION WENDED ON TO THE AIRSTRIP...

STEP LIVELY THERE, YOU LOT! YOU'VE A NICE COMFY PLANE RIDE AHEAD.

HERE THEY ARE. WHAT A MEAN COLLECTION OF RATBAGS!

I WOULDN'T TRUST THEM WITH A USED MATCH!



THE SPEED OF EVENTS HAD SHAKEN BLUEY WATTS CONSIDERABLY. HE AND HIS PALS HAD HELD THE COLONEL AND THE OFFICERS AT GUNPOINT UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THE BATTALION TO CHANGE ORDERS. THEN HE HAD MEEKLY GIVEN IN. NOTHING HE COULD SAY COULD EXONERATE HIM...

WHAT ELSE COULD I HAVE DONE? THE COLONEL WOULD HAVE SENT THE BATTALION TO ITS DOOM... AT LEAST, I SAVED THAT...



EVENTS HAD PASSED WITH FRIGHTENING SPEED FOR LOFTY BURNS, TOO...

I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT INTO THIS MESS... BUT WHAT BLUEY SAYS GOES, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED!

STEP LIVELY, LAWRIE. YOU'VE GOT A ONE-WAY TICKET ON THIS TRIP.

AW, WIND YOUR NECK IN!



AS THE SPEAKER, A BIG BRUTE OF A MAN, CLIMBED HEAVILY INTO THE DAKOTA, THE PILOT SPOKE SOBERLY TO THE PROVOST SERGEANT...

WHO'S THAT PUG-LIKE SERGEANT? WHAT'S HE DONE?

THAT'S MAX LAWRIE... WHAT HASN'T HE DONE. YOU MEAN, SIR. HE'S IN FOR THE LOT, AND HE'LL FACE A FIRING SQUAD WHEN THEY'VE FINISHED PUTTING HIM THROUGH THE MILL.

A MEAN-LOOKING DEVIL!



WITH A RUMBLING GROWL OF ENGINES, THE DAKOTA TOOK OFF. NOT FOR A MOMENT DID THE PROVOST SERGEANT'S STEELY EYES LEAVE THE MAN CALLED MAX LAWRIE...

JUST ONE CHANCE OF A BREAK--THAT'S ALL I WANT. IT'S ME FOR THE CHOP UNLESS I CAN GET AWAY...



UP IN THE PILOT'S CABIN, A MESSAGE CRACKLED IN OVER THE RADIO...

MET WARNING, CHUCK,  
A BIG BLOW BUILDING UP  
RIGHT ON COURSE, LESS  
THAN FIFTY MILES  
AWAY.

THAT MEANS  
WE'LL HAVE TO  
DIVERT...

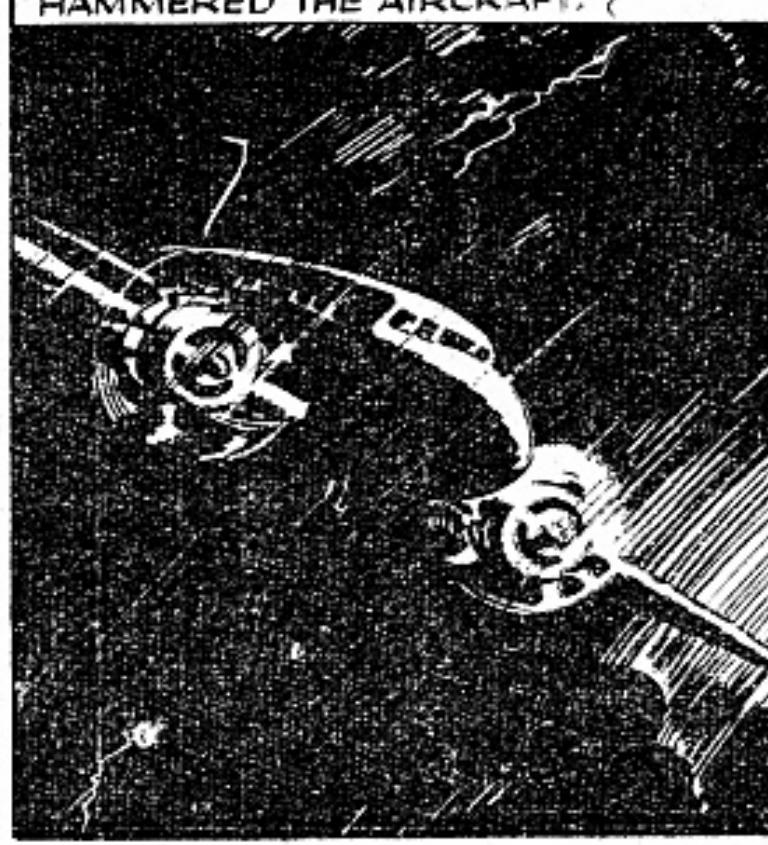


FREAK TROPICAL STORMS, WITH WINDS  
OVER A HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR,  
COULD BLOW UP FROM NOWHERE. THE  
DAKOTA BANKED ON TO A DIVERGENT  
COURSE ...

THOSE  
THUNDERHEADS  
ARE BUILDING UP  
THIS WAY-FAST!

WE'LL NEVER  
GET ROUND THEM,  
CHUCK! WE'LL HAVE  
TO TURN BACK!

BUT WITH THE SPEED OF A STRIKING  
COBRA THE STORM ATTACHED THE  
DAKOTA, TOSSSED IT CONTEMPTUOUSLY  
LIKE A DRIVEN LEAF. LIGHTNING  
FORKED DOWN, TORRENTIAL RAIN  
HAMMERED THE AIRCRAFT.



LIKE A CRUSHED AND BATTERED MOTH, THE DAKOTA WAS FORCED LOWER AND LOWER UNTIL IT SPUN INTO THE GROUND...



AS QUICKLY AS IT HAD BUILT UP, THE STORM SUBSIDED. SHAKEN, BRUISED, SHOCKED, THE SURVIVORS CRAWLED FROM THE WRECKAGE.

GIVE ME A HAND  
WITH THE NAVIGATOR.  
I THINK HE'S BOUGHT  
IT!

RIGHTO, SPORT.  
YOU OKAY, LOFTY?

TOO RIGHT,  
BLUEY. I'LL FIND  
THE OTHERS...

A MISERABLE, WET, FORSAKEN  
LITTLE BAND AT LAST  
CONGREGATED BY THE  
SHATTERED FUSELAGE.

WHAT A MESS!  
RADIO SMASHED  
MAROONED IN THE  
MIDDLE OF THE NEW  
GUINEA JUNGLE

AT LEAST  
WE'RE ALIVE!

HEY! WHAT  
ABOUT TAKING  
OFF THESE CUFFS  
NOW?

THE REQUEST SEEMED REASONABLE TO BLUEY. HE TURNED FOR THE KEYS  
FROM THE DEAD PROVOST SERGEANT. WHEN A MOCKING VOICE FROZE  
HIM IN HIS TRACKS.

LOOKING FOR  
THE KEYS, SOLDIER?  
YOU'RE A BIT LATE...  
NOW UNLOCK MY  
MATES. SHARP!

THERE WAS NO MISTAKING THE THREAT IN MAX LAWRIE'S VOICE — NOR IN THE BLACK MENACING MUZZLE OF THE TOMMY GUN.



IN THE ENSUING HOURS, A QUICK RECONNAISSANCE OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS SHOWED THAT THEY HAD BEEN MAROONED DEEP IN THE UNEXPLORED HEART OF NEW GUINEA.



LOFTY BURNS FROWNED AS HE LOOKED AT MAX LAWRIE...



YOU DIM-WITTED JOKER. DON'T YOU SEE? WE WERE ALL ON OUR WAY TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT OR WORSE. NOW THEY'LL THINK WE'RE ALL DEAD. THEY'LL NEVER FIND US HERE!

BLUEY SEIZED ON THE IDEA AT ONCE...



MY SIDE, BLUEY. I THINK I BROKE A RIB - IT DIDN'T HURT AT FIRST - BUT NOW!

DARKY ROBERTS HAD SLUMPED TO THE GROUND IN PAIN AND BLUEY DROPPED ANXIALLY ON ONE KNEE...

I NEED A DOCTOR, BLUEY. YOU'VE GOT TO GET A DOCTOR!

WE'RE MILES FROM CIVILISATION, DARKY... THERE AREN'T ANY DOCTORS, WE'LL HAVE TO TRY TO FIX YOU UP!



FLIGHT LIEUTENANT CHUCK KINCAID HAD BEEN SILENT UNTIL THAT MOMENT. NOW HE STEPPED FORWARD RESOLUTELY...

LOOK HERE, LAWRIE - YOU'RE STILL UNDER MILITARY DISCIPLINE! I'M THE SENIOR OFFICER PRESENT AND SO I'M TELLING YOU WE'RE HEADING OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW -

SHUT YOUR TRAP, RATBAG! I'M IN CHARGE HERE AND THIS TOMMY GUN IS MY BADGE OF RANK - SEE?

THE TWO MEN GLARED AT EACH OTHER AND THE OTHERS TENSED, WAITING FOR THE CRASH OF LAWRIE'S GUN, BUT, INSTEAD, THERE CAME A SHRILL CRY OF ALARM FROM ONE OF THE EX-PRISONERS...



THIEF AND DESERTER, SLIM CARNEY STARED IN TERROR AT THE WILD-LOOKING NATIVES. HIS FINGER TIGHTENED ON THE TRIGGER...

MAX-MAX!  
QUICK, SHOOT 'EM!

HOLD IT,  
SLIM —  
HOLD IT!



MAX FLUNG HIMSELF BODILY AT SLIM,SENDING HIM CRASHING TO THE GROUND. THE PILOT, CHUCK, REACHED FORWARD EAGERLY FOR THE DROPPED OWN-GUN...



EVEN AS CHUCK'S HAND CLOSED ON THE GUN, A BOOT TRAPPED THE PILOT'S CLAWING FINGERS...



CHUCK STARED UP SICKLY INTO THE BLEAK FACE OF SERGEANT BLUEY WATTS...



AGAIN THAT BIG BOOMING LAUGH  
OF MAX'S CRASHED OUT.

YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT  
IDEA, SPORT! NOW WE'LL  
PARLEY WITH THESE  
FUZZIES AND FIND US  
TUCKER, SHELTER.

ALL RIGHT, MAX.  
WE'LL NEED TO FIX  
UP DARKY - BUT I'M  
HOLDING ON TO  
THIS GUN!



THE NATIVES HAD BELIEVED THE WHOLE WORLD LAY IN THEIR VALLEY. THEY  
HAD NEVER SEEN A WHITE MAN BEFORE.

WELL, SPORTS, THIS  
IS THE LIFE OF RILEY!

WHAT ARE WE GONNA  
DO ABOUT THE PILOT  
AND RED-CAPS, MAX?



THE ICE-COLD KILLING RAGE THAT JUMPED INTO MAX'S FACE TO TELL HIS HENCHMEN ALL THEY NEEDED TO KNOW...



SENSING THEIR NEARNESS TO DEATH, CHUCK AND THE LANCE CORPORAL PROVOSTS REMAINED QUIET. EVEN THE NATIVES DIVINED A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS...



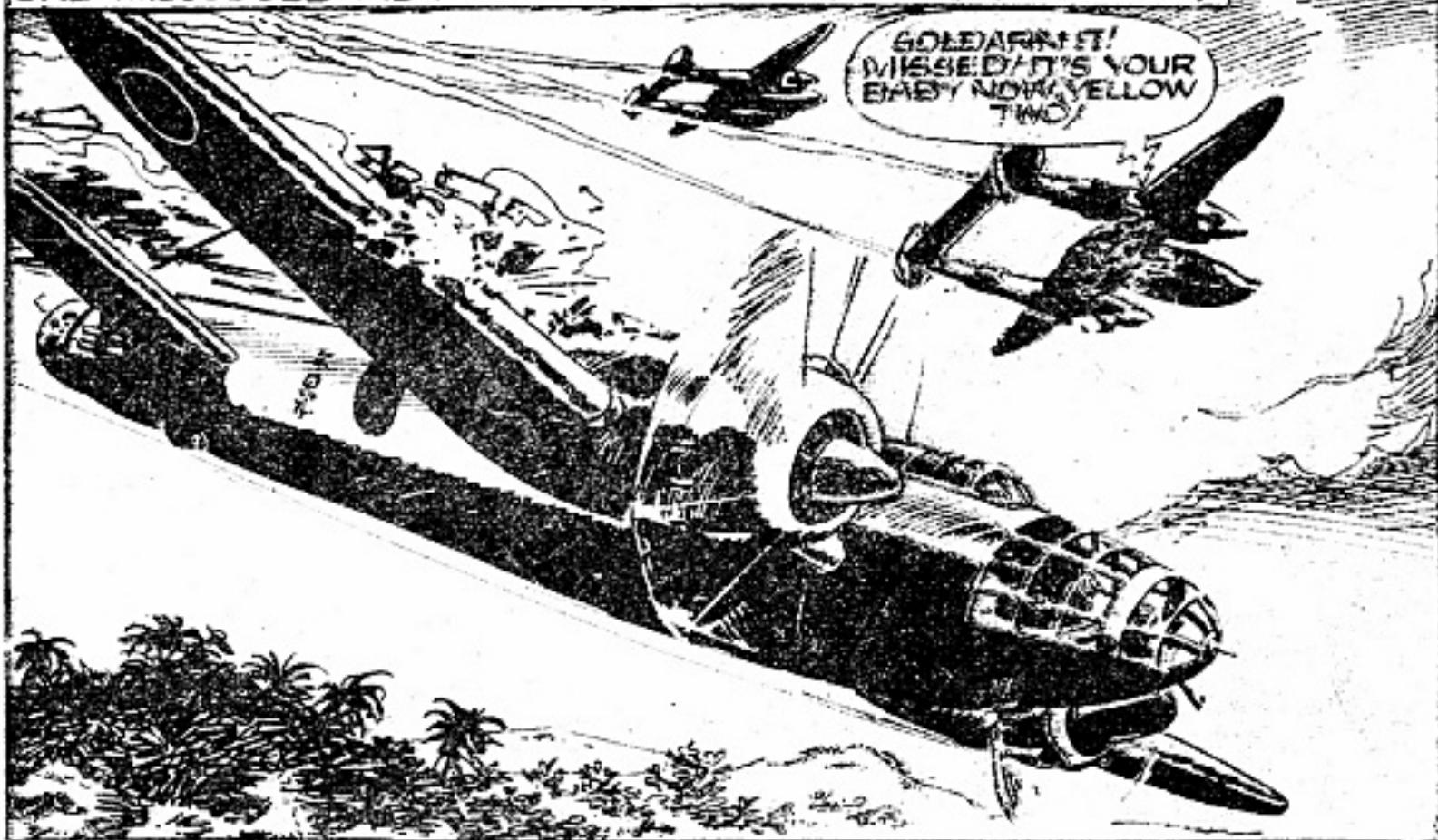
BITTERNESS AND ANGER AGAINST THE ARMY HAD SOURED SERGEANT BLUEY WATTS. HE HAD TRIED TO DO HIS DUTY AND HAD BEEN TREATED LIKE A CRIMINAL.



SOME MILES AWAY, A PAIR OF U.S.A.A.F LIGHTnings, RETURNING FROM A PATROL, SUDDENLY SPOTTED AN INVITING BUT UNEXPECTED QUARRY.



THEIR PREY, A LONE JAPANESE TROOP-CARRIER, WAS SO SLOW THAT YELLOW ONE MISJUDGED HIS ATTACK IN HIS EAGERNESS FOR THE KILL.



INSIDE THE TROOP-CARRIER WERE A GROUP OF JAPANESE SOLDIERS WHO WERE BEING RUSHED AS REINFORCEMENTS TO A DESPERATE POSITION.



## Lost Jungle

YELLOW TWO MADE NO MISTAKE ON HIS DEFLECTION BURST AND THE OTHER AMERICAN YELLED APPRECIATIVELY...



LOW ON FUEL, THE TWO P5S LIGHTnings TURNED FOR THEIR BASE WHILE THE JAPANESE PILOT WRESTLED WITH HIS CONTROLS, STRIVING TO BRING THE CRIPPLED SHIP TO SOME SORT OF LANDING IN THE JUNGLE.



THE AERIAL COMBAT AND THE THICK COILS OF SMOKE FROM THE WRECK BROUGHT ALL THE DESERTERS OUT INTO THE VILLAGE SQUARE...



BUT THE TOUGH JAPANESE SOLDIERS HAD - MOST OF THEM, UNDER THE WHIPLASH OF THEIR OFFICER'S TONGUE, THEY MOVED AWAY FROM THE WRECK JUST BEFORE IT EXPLODED.



## Lost Jungle

AN EXCITED NATIVE BROUGHT THE FIRST NEWS TO THE VILLAGE.



THE WAR THAT THE DESERTERS HAD THOUGHT SO FAR AWAY HAD SOUGHT THEM OUT IN THEIR JUNGLE PARADISE.

WELL, SO WHAT? WE AIN'T FIGHTING NO MORE BATTLES. LIE LOW AND MAYBE THE JAPS WILL GO AWAY!

THEY'LL BE TRYING TO GET OUT OF THIS VALLEY, BUT...

BUT NOTHING! IF THEY DON'T TANGLE WITH US THEY NEEDN'T KNOW WE'RE HERE!

THE MEN OF FIVE PLATOON LOOKED TO BLUEY FOR LEADERSHIP, BUT BLUEY WAS BITTER AND BEATEN.

WE DON'T WANT TO GET INTO A FIGHT... I'LL GO ALONG WITH MAX.

WISE OF YOU, SPORT! THE WAR'S OVER FOR US — AND DON'T FORGET IT!

EVEN THOUGH CAPTAIN HAGURA DROVE HIS MEN ON REMORSELESSLY, HE KNEW THEY NEEDED FOOD AND DRINK IF THEY WERE TO REMAIN EFFICIENT SOLDIERS OF THE EMPEROR...

WE WILL TAKE ALL WE NEED FROM THIS VILLAGE. IF THE NATIVES OBJECT- YOU KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM!



THERE WAS BARELY TIME FOR THE AUSTRALIANS TO HIDE IN THE HUTS WHEN THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS RAMPAGED INTO THE VILLAGE.

WE NEED FOOD AND DRINK, DOG-QUICKLY!

AT ONCE. BUT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU TREAT US LIKE THIS...

IF HE BLABS, WE'RE SUNK!



## Lost Jungle

THINGS HAD NOT TURNED OUT QUITE AS MAX EXPECTED... IT WAS CAPTAIN HAGURA WHO DEALT THE FINAL CARD IN THE HAND OF DEATH.

IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO QUESTION WHAT THE SOLDIERS OF THE EMPEROR ORDER! WE WILL TAKE WHAT WE NEED, THEN WE WILL BURN YOUR MISERABLE VILLAGE AS A LESSON!



INSIDE THE HUT, THE AUSSIES LOOKED AT EACH OTHER. IT WAS BLUEY WATTS WHO SPOKE FIRST...

IT'S NO GOOD - NAH! WE CAN WE'VE GOT TO GET THE FUZZIES STOP THEM!

TO REBUILD THE VILLAGE!

BLUEY'S RIGHT! WE'LL KNOCK THOSE JAPS OFF BEFORE THEY KNOW WHAT'S HIT 'EM, COME ON!



UNDER THE LASH OF CAPTAIN HAGURA'S TONGUE, THE NATIVES HAD SCATTERED TO FETCH FOOD AND DRINK. IT WAS THEN THE DESERTERS OPENED FIRE...

AUSTRALIAN DEVILS! HERE!

GIVE IT TO 'EM!

DON'T LET ANY GET AWAY!



ALTHOUGH THEY HAD BEEN CAUGHT UTTERLY UNPREPARED OUT IN THE OPEN, THE SOLDIERS OF JAPAN FOUGHT WITH VICIOUS COURAGE. A LIGHT MACHINE GUN WAS SCRAMBLED INTO ACTION, STIFFENING THE RESISTANCE...



AFTER THAT FIRST FURIOUS ONSLAUGHT, MAX AND HIS DESERTERS FALTERED...



THEN THE WHOLE SITUATION CHANGED — AS THE UNARMED FORGOTTEN MEN, CHUCK AND THE RED-CAPS, FLUNG THEMSELVES UPON THE ENEMY.

GRAB THEIR GUNS, BOYS!  
THIS IS WHERE WE MAKE A COME BACK!



IN SECONDS THE FIGHT WAS OVER. TWO GRIM-FACED GROUPS OF SURVIVORS FACED EACH OTHER, GUNS IN HAND.



ONE BATTLE HAD FINISHED, BUT IT LOOKED AS THOUGH ANOTHER WAS ABOUT TO START — A BATTLE BETWEEN DESERTERS AND MILITARY POLICE.

AT THAT MOMENT, THE MORTALLY WOUNDED CAPTAIN HAGURA PLAYED HIS LAST CARD IN THE GAME WITH DEATH. HE WOULD NEVER KNOW THAT HIS ACT WOULD HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES - FOR HIS OWN SIDE.



IT WAS THE FIGHT LIEUTENANT, CHUCK KINKAID WHO WAS FELLED BY THAT BULLET - AND BLUEY REACTED VENGEFULLY...



THEN THE BRUTAL VOICE OF MAX BROKE IN AND THE POLICEMEN LOOKED UP IN DISMAY...



ONCE AGAIN THE BURLY MAX LAWRIE HAD THE SITUATION WELL UNDER CONTROL AND THE LANCE CORPORALS WERE HERDED INTO A HUT UNDER GUARD. BUT BLUEY COULD NOT FORGET THE AGONISED FACE OF THE PILOT, CHUCK, AS HE DIED...



WELL, WE GOT  
THROUGH THAT  
ALL RIGHT, BLUEY.  
BUT WHAT'S BITING  
YOU?

I JUST  
REMEMBERED  
THAT WE'RE FIGHTING  
A WAR, LOFTY —  
MAX ISN'T!

DESPITE HIS SLOWLY RE-AWAKENING  
FEELINGS, BLUE STILL MADE NO MOVE  
TO LEAVE THEIR JUNGLE PARADISE.  
LIFE THERE WAS VERY PLEASANT...



I HAVEN'T CAUGHT  
ONE ALL DAY, BUT WHAT  
DOES IT MATTER, HOW  
THOSE FUZZIES HIT FISH  
WITH THOSE BOWS AND  
ARROWS BEATS ME.

THEY DON'T  
HAVE CROOK  
EYES LIKE  
US, BLUEY!

MAX TOO HAD DISCOVERED NEW REASONS FOR CLINGING TO HIS HIDEOUT - GOLDEN REASONS...

THE FUZZIES SAID THEY FOUND 'EM UP IN THE HILLS, MAX. ARE THEY REAL? IS IT...?

YEAH, SLIM,  
YEAH! GOLD,  
THE REAL STUFF!  
WE CAN BE  
RICH!

BUT FOR THE NATIVES' LIKING FOR GOLD NUGGETS AS ADORNMENT: BUT FOR MAX'S AVARICE IN FORCING THE WHOLE PARTY TO GO IN SEARCH OF MORE - THE WAR IN THAT PART OF NEW GUINEA WOULD HAVE TAKEN A DARK TRAGIC TURN...

HOW MUCH FARTHER? WE MUST BE NEARLY OUT OF THE VALLEY.

ANOTHER HOUR... ANOTHER HOUR ONLY TO THE PLACE OF THE GOLDEN ROCKS.

WE'RE NOT GONNA LEAVE THIS VALLEY, MAX. NOT EVEN FOR GOLD!

TEMPER SHARPENED MAN'S WORDS AS HE SWORE VIOLENTLY AT HIS HENCHMAN...

AW, SHUT UP, SLIM! IF WE CAN PAN ENOUGH GOLD WE'LL MAKE OURSELVES RICH FOR LIFE! AS SOON AS THIS CURSED WAR'S OVER, WE CAN GO BACK TO CIVILISATION...



THEN SERGEANT BLUEY WATTS LOOKED OVER THE CREST...

AT THE PLACE OF THE GOLDEN ROCKS, THE PARTY RESTED, EXHAUSTED FROM THE CLIMB. THEN, AS MAN SOUGHT EAGERLY WHERE THE GUIDE INDICATED, BLUEY WALKED TO THE CREST OF THE RIDGE.



TO BE RICH / TO HAVE ENOUGH NOT TO FIGHT AND STRUGGLE TO STAY ALIVE / THIS PLACE IS A PARADISE.. RIGHT ENOUGH. WHAT HARM WOULD IT DO TO STAY HERE UNTIL IT'S ALL OVER...?



AUSSIES! A WHOLE BRIGADE OF 'EM. FROM THE LOOK OF IT!

SHAKEN BY THIS UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY, BLUEY TURNED TO WARN HIS COMRADES. SUDDENLY, HIS KEEN EYES NOTICED MOVEMENT ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE RIDGE...



THE JAPS, SKILLED IN SWIFT MOVEMENT OVER ROUGH COUNTRY, WERE CLIMBING ENERGETICALLY OUT OF THE CAULDRON OF THE JUNGLE.



## Chapter 3. Decision

BLUEY PLUNGED BACK TOWARDS HIS COMRADES, HIS MIND IN A TURMOIL, HIS THOUGHTS CHAOTIC...



AS BLUEY WENT ON, MAX STOOD UP TO STARE CHALLENGINGLY AROUND ON THE DESERTERS.

THERE'S A BRIGADE OF AUSSIES, TOO. THE JAPS ARE GETTING SET TO AMBUSH THEM!

WE'LL HIDE ALL TRACES HERE, JUST IN CASE SOME SNOOPER NOSES AROUND. THEN WE CAN COME BACK WHEN THEY'VE FINISHED FIGHTING THEIR CURSED WAR!



THE LURE OF GOLD HAD DRIVEN ALL OTHER THOUGHTS EVEN FROM HIS FRIENDS' HEADS. BLUEY SAW SICKLY.

DESPERATELY IN NEED OF HELP AND GUIDANCE, BLUEY TURNED TO LOFTY...

THE ARMY SMASHED ME BECAUSE I TRIED TO HELP. I OWE THEM NOTHING. AND YET... AND YET THEY'RE JUST MEN DOWN THERE, WAITING TO BE KILLED. MAYBE EVEN OUR OLD MATES...

LOFTY! WE CAN'T LET OUR COBBERS BE KILLED AND DO NOTHING?

WE DON'T OWE THE ARMY A SINGLE THING, BLUEY! MAX IS RIGHT! LIE LOW AND GRAB THE GOLD WHEN THE SHOOTING'S ALL OVER!



WHILE BLUEY HESITATED, THE REST OF THE EX-PRISONERS CONCEALED THE TRACES OF GOLD. BUT FATE WAS CATCHING UP WITH THEM.



UNKNOWN TO MAX, AND THOSE ABOUT HIM, A DOZEN ENEMY RIFLES WERE AIMED AT THEIR BACKS, AND DEATH HOVERED CLOSE. BUT THE VILLAGERS SAW - AND REMEMBERED THE CRUELTY OF THOSE YELLOW-SKINNED MEN...



THAT NATIVE ARROW VOLLEY SAVED THE AUSTRALIANS - GAVE THEM TIME TO SNATCH UP GUNS - AND FIGHT BACK.



THE MEN OF FIVE PLATOON HESITATED. THEY HAD GROWN USED TO TAKING ORDERS FROM BIG MAX AND THE LURE OF GOLD WAS STILL STRONG WITHIN THEM. BUT BLUEY WATTS HAD MADE UP HIS MIND...

RUN IF YOU LIKE, MAX!  
BUT WE'VE GOT TO SCUPPER  
THESE JAPS AND WARN OUR  
MATES. COME ON, FIVE  
PLATOON! WE'RE BACK  
IN BUSINESS!

BUT,  
BLUEY -

BBLUEY GLARED FIERCILY AT LOFTY WHO GRINNED SHEEPISHLY...

THAT'S ENOUGH, LOFTY!  
GET ONE OF THOSE JAP MACHINE  
GUNS INTO ACTION! IF WE CAN  
REACH THAT RIDGE WE  
CAN WARN OUR MATES.

ALL RIGHT,  
I'M WITH YOU,  
BLUEY...

THE TOUGH FIGHTING MEN OF FIVE PLATOON SUDDENLY REALISED WITH SHAME THAT THEY HAD BEEN FOLLOWING A COWARD. IT WAS THE FINAL SPUR.



CHECKED, THE JAPANESE PATROL GAVE WAY TO PANIC. FOR EVERY MAN THEY LOST TO A BULLET THEY LOST ANOTHER TO A SILENT, VENGEFUL ARROW. SIGHING OUT OF THE JUNGLE...



THAT TEMPESTUOUS ATTACK CARRIED THE AUSTRALIANS UP THE SLOPE. STUNNED, THE JAPANESE TURNED AND RAN AND EVEN THE WRATH OF THEIR COMMANDER COULD NOT STOP THE ROUT.



FIVE PLATOON LASHED THEM WITH ALL THE FIRE-POWER THEY COULD RAISE AND THE LANCE CORPORALS JOINED IN WITH VIGOUR. THEN BLUEY AND HIS SECTION ERUPTED ON THE JAP FLANK...



BATTLE-WISE, BLUEY HALTED HIS MEN ON THE CREST.



IN THAT SHORT BREATHING SPACE FIVE PLATOON SCOOPED SHALLOW FOXHOLES, SET UP THEIR CAPTURED MACHINE GUNS, DISTRIBUTED GRENADES. THEN THEY LIT A SIGNAL FIRE...



SEEING THAT BETRAYING COLUMN OF SMOKE, THE JAPANESE COLONEL LASHED HIS MEN INTO A SUICIDAL ASSAULT ON THE HILL.

THE AUSTRALIAN DEVILS MUST BE OVERWHELMED AND THAT ACCURSED FIRE PUT OUT! WE MAY STILL BE IN TIME... THERE CANNOT BE MANY OF THEM!



BUT THOSE FEW DEFENDERS WERE FIGHTING MEN, AND THEY HELD ON TO THEIR CREST LINE WITH A STUBBORNNESS THAT MATCHED AND SURPASSED THE FANATICAL BRAVERY OF THE JAPANESE.



DEEP IN THE VALLEY, THE RISING PLUME OF SMOKE HAD CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF THE COLUMN OF AUSTRALIANS.



COLONEL DAVIS HAD LEARNED MUCH IN THE WEEKS SINCE THE ARREST OF SERGEANT BLUEY WATTS. HE KNEW NOW THAT JAPANESE WERE ALWAYS WHERE THEY WERE LEAST EXPECTED.

GET A MESSAGE OFF TO BRIGADE. TELL THEM WE BELIEVE WE MAY HAVE STRUCK JAP OPPOSITION. THE WHOLE BRIGADE WILL HAVE TO TAKE A DIFFERENT LINE...



THE BATTLE FOR THE CREST OF THE RIDGE HAD BEEN BITTER AND SAVAGE. BLUEY WATTS KNEW THAT THEY COULD NOT WITHSTAND SUCH ODDS FOR MUCH LONGER.

IF I'D GONE ALONG WITH MAX WE'D STILL HAVE A CHANCE OF LIFE. ALL I'VE DONE IS KILL MY OWN FRIENDS UP HERE!



BUT EVEN THOUGH DOUBTS HAMMERED ON BLUEY'S MIND, HE FOUGHT WITH COOL FEROCITY...



ONE MORE DETERMINED JAPANESE RUSH WOULD CRUSH THE AUSTRALIANS — BLUEY KNEW THAT BUT THEY WOULD DIE FIGHTING!



THEN THE SMASHING CONCUSSION OF BREN, LEE-ENFIELD AND MILLS 36 FROM DOWN SLOPE BROUGHT THE JAPANESE ATTACK TO AN ABRUPT HALT.

AIEE!  
MORE OF THE  
WHITE DEVILS!

THE ADVANCE PATROLS OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN FORCE HAD JOINED  
IN THE FIGHT.

BATTLE WEARY BUT DEFIANT, THE DEFENDERS  
OF THE CREST WAITED FOR THE NEW ARRIVALS.

YOU SAVED US ALL. WHAT  
A FIGHT YOU'VE PUT UP!  
I'LL SEE YOU RECEIVE  
PROPER RECOGNITION  
OF YOUR GALLANTRY!

GOOD GRIEF!  
THAT'S SERGEANT  
BLUEY WATTS!

AS THEY MOVED DOWN TO THE NATIVE VILLAGE, ONE OF THE MILITARY POLICEMEN TOLD THE WHOLE STORY OF THEIR CRASH LANDING. COLONEL DAVIS STARED THOUGHTFULLY AT BLUEY AND THE SCARECROWS OF FIVE PLATOON...

CHARGES WERE PREFERRED, SERGEANT. SO YOU'LL HAVE TO FACE THEM. BUT AFTER THIS, I'M GOING TO MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH TO GET YOU OFF THE HOOK AND BACK IN MY BATTALION AGAIN!

I'M SORRY, I WALLOPED YOU, SIR. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.

WE HIT THE JAP FOR SIX IN THE LAGHI VALLEY. BLUEY, THEY WERE THERE, ALL RIGHT!



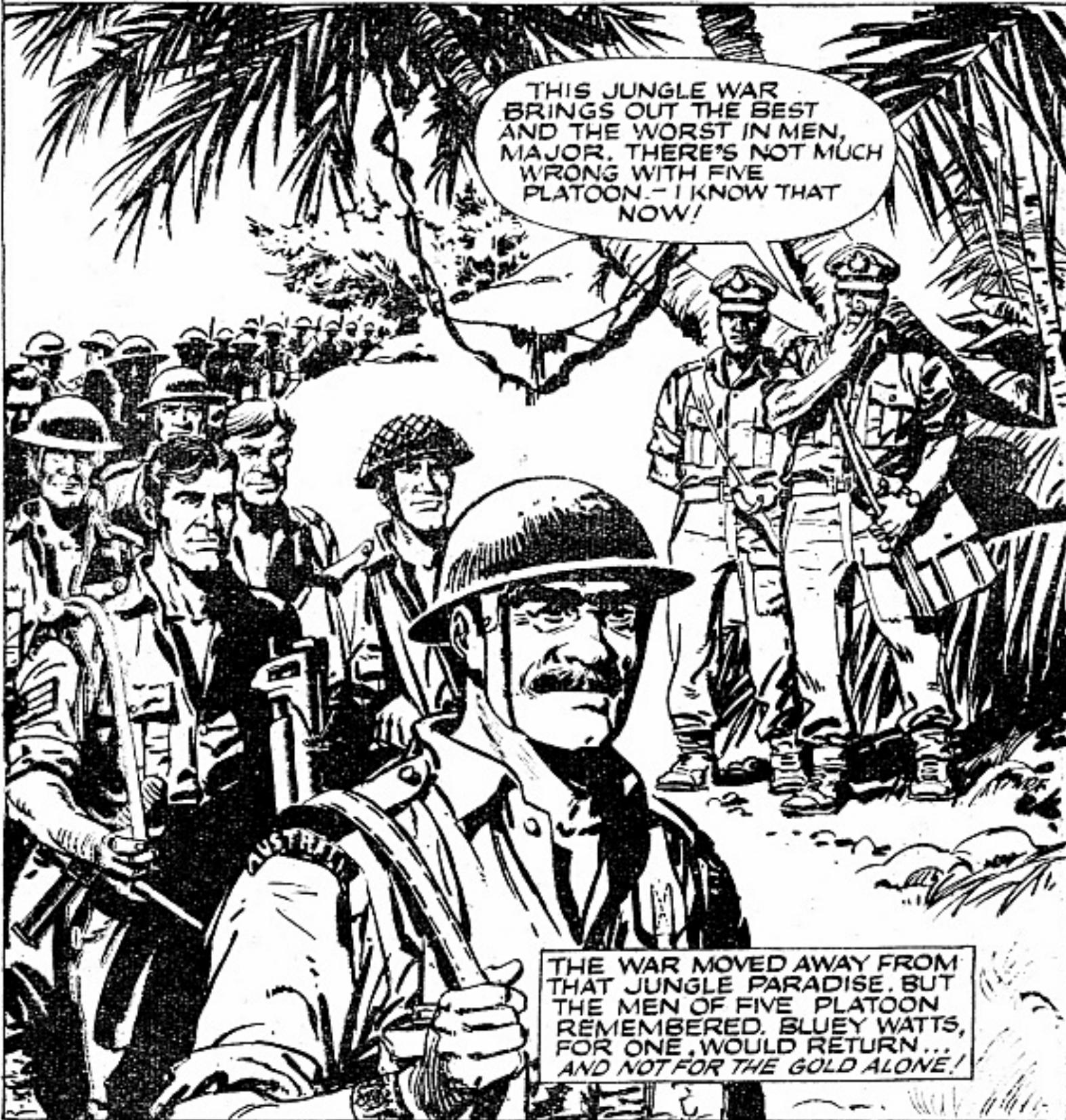
THEN WHINING VOICES AND CURSES BROUGHT ALL HEADS ROUND...

FOUND THESE SKULLERS UNDER A HUT, SIR. I THINK THE PROVOSTS KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEM!

TAKE 'EM AWAY. THEY'RE NOT FIT COMPANY FOR THE MEN OF MY FIVE PLATOON!



AND SO SERGEANT BLUEY WATTS AND HIS COMRADES OF FIVE PLATOON REJOINED THEIR BATTALION. HE DID NOT FEEL LIKE A HERO — JUST A SOLDIER WHO HAD STEPPED OUT OF LINE, AND WAS HAPPY TO BE BACK.



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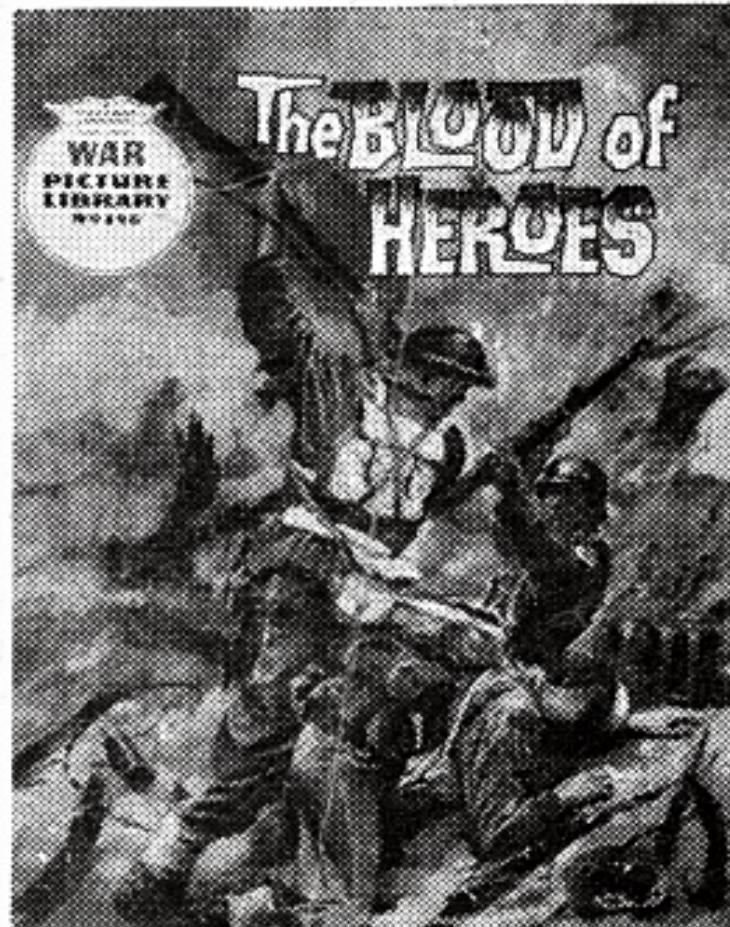
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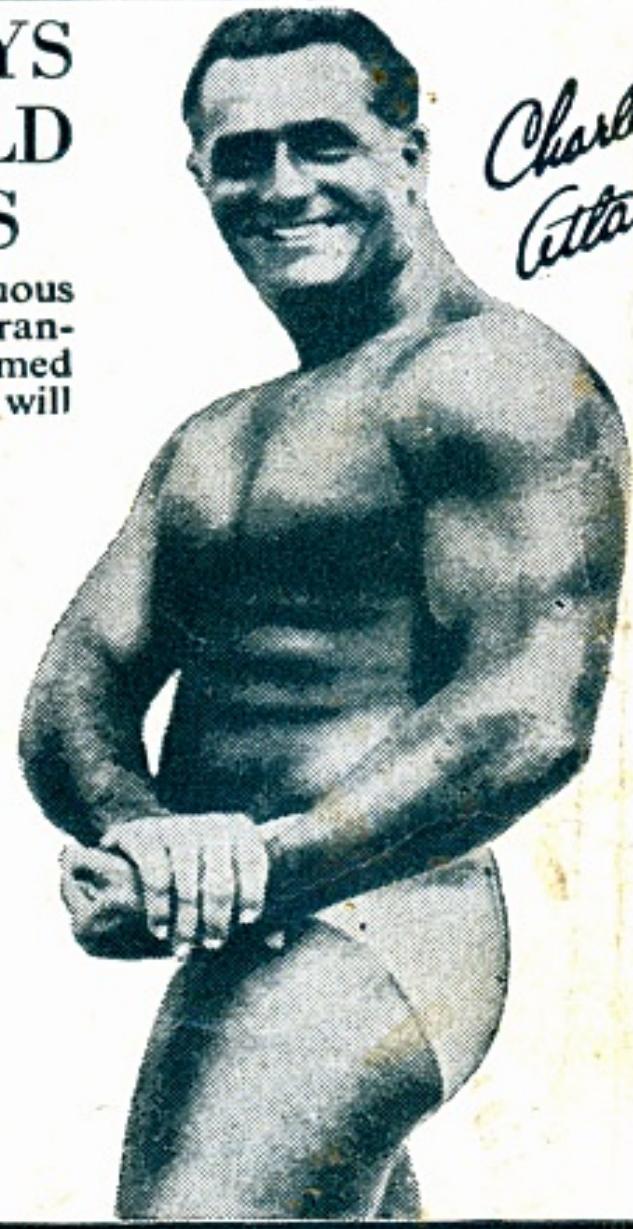
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